

that strong community, and I look forward to seeing what the team does next year.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the players, coaches, families, and the entire Refugio community on this achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIE BELTON

(Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Willie Belton, a political leader, successful businessman, and decorated war veteran who passed away on January 8, 2020.

Born and raised in Basile, Louisiana, Mr. Belton went on to serve in the United States Army and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his heroic acts of sacrifice. Later, he received the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal in gratitude for his faithful service.

Mr. Belton was also a monumental figure within the civil rights movement. In 1960, he was chosen to lead a local NAACP chapter and worked alongside some of history's heroes, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to put an end to racial discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all.

Mr. Belton was the first African American in Evangeline Parish to run for State representative in a predominantly white district. Even though he didn't end up winning that election, he made an enormous impact on the State of Louisiana by breaking down barriers, extinguishing fear, and paving the way for those who followed.

Our prayers are with the Belton family as they grieve the loss of an American hero. His service to this country and his active commitment to social justice will never be forgotten.

May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT EVAN MICHAEL HOLMES

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Evan Michael Holmes from Troop 95 in Upper Township on the attainment of his Eagle Scout rank. Eagle Scout is the highest rank obtainable from the Boy Scouts of America, and only 4 percent of all boys ever achieve this prestigious recognition.

Eagle Scouts are more likely to dedicate their life to service, and his service is very special. He is planning to join the Navy in February 2020. I was proud of Evan's beautiful Court of Honor that was celebrated earlier this month, and I congratulate Evan.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of Evan and look forward to big things in the future from him. Some of us look for

heroes in celebrities—God help us. Some look for heroes here in Washington—equally, God help us. But my heroes are individuals, young men like Evan, who do more, who work harder, and who know what it is to be a true American and a good person, who really care for and love their families and the people around them.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Evan the very best, and may God bless him.

THANKING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENDING UNBORN

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as pro-life, pro-family, and pro-child. No matter what your faith is, everyone understands that life is very precious and that life is a gift.

I believe that as Members of Congress and, really, as all citizens, we are called to protect the vulnerable, and this is one of my core beliefs. Being pro-life means not just pro-birth but being interested in the welfare of the child during his or her entire formative years.

That is why I am not only a longtime member of the Pro-Life Caucus but also the co-chair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank this administration for the work they have done to defend the unborn, including changing the rules for title 10 and expanding the Mexico City policy. I look forward to continuing to work with the administration on these issues as we come to the time of January when we remember the ruling on *Roe v. Wade*.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when there are no more abortions because there are no more unwanted children.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 15, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I write to respectfully tender my resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely,

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND MORAL AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER).

PROTECTING OUR WATERS AND COMMUNITIES

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the House passed H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019. This important legislation marks a critical step forward in addressing the public health crisis caused by so-called forever chemicals like PFAS.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, certain compounds of PFAS, like PFOA and PFOS, are known to cause liver damage, thyroid disease, asthma, birth defects, and even some cancers.

Unfortunately, for many in northeast Wisconsin, this fight is personal and tragic. Anyone who has been to our small corner of the country knows that water is part of what makes northeast Wisconsin so special and beautiful. Unfortunately, this water, which is so central to our way of life, is under threat from chemicals like PFOA and PFOS.

While until recently, PFAS was an unknown contaminant. Recent studies give us a better understanding of the risks posed by compounds like PFOA and PFOS. Not only have our communities been unwittingly placed at risk by these toxins, but it has taken far too long to get them the resources required to mitigate their effects.

As a result, these toxic chemicals have contaminated local water sources and literally poisoned the well from which Wisconsinites drink.

No one should be afraid to drink or use the water from their tap. The fact that this is the case for many across the country, including in northeast Wisconsin, and in Peshtigo, in particular, means one thing: We must act with a sense of urgency to defend our communities and protect the clean water that underpins our way of life.

As a member of the PFAS Task Force, I am committed to finding ways to combat PFAS and its negative effects on our communities.

Last year, Representative DELGADO and I introduced the PFAS Right-to-Know Act, a bipartisan bill that would require PFAS to be listed on the Toxics Release Inventory and require manufacturers, processors, and producers to report their usage of PFAS chemicals to the EPA.

Signed into law last month as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, this bill provides communities with a better understanding of where these toxins come from so we can better combat their effects. While this was an important first step, there is more to be done.

The PFAS Action Act builds on last year's progress through a number of important provisions. It designates